

From: [Greg Fife](#)
To: [Charlotte Runnels](#)
Subject: Fw: Mr. Gary Matrejean - Bayou Corne, LA
Date: 01/18/2013 01:57 PM

Phil Dellinger has had much more involvement than us. We assisted LDEQ with some air monitoring and keep an eye on things from a distance.

The biggest problem is that it is a big sink hole and does not have any quick fix. Investigations conducted by Texas Brine, found out that it was a salt cavern that they used to mine salt, did collapse and the sink hole developed from that collapse. That caused additional bubbling and surface releases of natural gas to certain areas. Some of those areas are in residential neighborhoods. A lot of air monitoring has been done to make sure that the homes are safe. And Texas Brine, working with LA Department of Natural Resources (the Lead), has installed shallow wells that are removing the natural gas from the ground. And Texas Brine, also under an order from LDNR has installed in home air monitors, and is waiting for more people to sign up.

Texas Brine has complied with many of the things they have been asked/told/ordered to do but they are also fighting a somewhat questionable order in the courts right now. One thing that they have been ordered to do is construct a berm that would, supposedly, prevent salt water from flowing into the swamp. There is disagreement within the government, academia, and response community how wise that order is.

As far as the residents not getting assistance, the ones who decided to evacuate have been receiving payments from Texas Brine since August. They have monitors installed in houses. They have had their homes checked for natural gas by LDEQ, They have had a series of public meetings. The State and Parish have maintained a presence right in the community with open doors to be able to ask questions, express concerns, etc.

There is a science group that has been investigating. The group is made up of scientist from LSU, University of Memphis, USGS, Los Alamos National Laboratories, EPA (Ada), LDNR, and many others. They have released their findings about just how big the sink hole could get, worst case, and it will not eat the town.

There is no quick fix. There is no way of filling in the sink hole or the salt cavern.

----- Forwarded by Greg Fife/R6/USEPA/US on 01/18/2013 10:53 AM -----

From: Chris Petersen/R6/USEPA/US
To: Susan Webster/R6/USEPA/US@EPA, Greg Fife/R6/USEPA/US@EPA
Date: 01/18/2013 10:29 AM
Subject: Fw: Mr. Gary Matrejean - Bayou Corne, LA

J. Chris Petersen
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----- Forwarded by Chris Petersen/R6/USEPA/US on 01/18/2013 10:22 AM -----

From: Charlotte Runnels/R6/USEPA/US
To: Chris Petersen/R6/USEPA/US@EPA, David McQuiddy/R6/USEPA/US@EPA, Israel Anderson/R6/USEPA/US@EPA
Date: 01/18/2013 10:01 AM
Subject: Re: Mr. Gary Matrejean - Bayou Corne, LA

Hey guys, we received a call from a resident in Bayou Corne sinkhole who is complaining about the situation. What is EPA's role if any? How should we respond?
Thanks for your assistance.

Charlotte Runnels
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Environmental Justice Liaison - Louisiana
Environmental Protection Agency
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▼ Israel Anderson---01/17/2013 04:53:24 PM---Ragan's folks like Chris Petersen and Wes McQuiddy probably have some information on the sink hole i

From: Israel Anderson/R6/USEPA/US
To: Charlotte Runnels/R6/USEPA/US@EPA
Date: 01/17/2013 04:53 PM
Subject: Re: Mr. Gary Matrejean - Bayou Corne, LA

Ragan's folks like Chris Petersen and Wes McQuiddy probably have some information on the sink hole issue.

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▼ Charlotte Runnels---01/17/2013 04:47:12 PM---Received and returned a call to

Mr. Matrejean in Bayou Corne, LA who has several concerns with the B

From: Charlotte Runnels/R6/USEPA/US
To: Israel Anderson/R6/USEPA/US@EPA
Date: 01/17/2013 04:47 PM
Subject: Mr. Gary Matrejean - Bayou Corne, LA

Received and returned a call to Mr. Matrejean in Bayou Corne, LA who has several concerns with the Bayou Corne sinkhole in Assumption Parish. Wants to know if EPA has a role in the situation. I told him I would get back with him after I get a status of the situation, including EPA's role if any.

Feels like there is some type of cover-up going on and thinks Texas Brine is not being held accountable for anything that's going on.

- nothing is happening and the citizens are not getting any assistance.
- evacuated from homes for 6 months
- Somebody is getting paid off - Texas Brine is getting away with contaminating their

- Area recently received over 18 inches of rain and is concerned about possible contamination of the swamps

Agencies involved

- Conservation Commission
- LDEQ
- LDHH
- LDNR
- Parish Government
-

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